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# Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06961 261512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-08 L-03 SP-02 H-01 PM-05 ACDA-07 SS-15
SSO-00 NSCE-00 EURE-00 /067 W
----------082171 261746Z /40 S
O 261432Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1766

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6961

EMO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: U.S-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION: POSSIBLE EX-IM LETTER

REF: ATHENS 6920 AND ATHENS 6951

1. WHILE CHRYSOSPATHIS AND I WERE MEETING TODAY IN HIS OFFICE ON DETAILS OF DCA INITIALING CEREMONY (ATHENS 6951), TZOUNIS PHONED TO SPEAK WITH ME ABOUT EX-IM LETTER. HE SAID BITSIOS FEELS SOMEWHAT EXPOSED ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE WHEN HE TOLD PRIME MINISTER THAT USG WAS PREPARED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO PROVIDE EX-IM LETTER SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN TURKEY, CARAMANLIS GOT THE IMPRESSION LETTER WOULD BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF INITIALING, NOT FULL-POWERS' SIGNING. WHILE BITSIOS ACCEPTS UNDERSTANDING I CONVEYED TO TZOUNIS YESTERDAY (PARA 3 REFTEL) AND NO LONGER EXPECTS FINAL LETTER ON JULY 28, HE HOPES VERY MUCH THAT AT THAT TIME I WILL BE ABLE TO PRIVIDE AN INTERIM LETTER TO TZOUNIS FROM ME ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES TO GET HIM OFF THE HOOK:

"DEAR AMBASSADOR TZOUNIS:

IN PURSUANCE OF OUR CONVERSATION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE A LETTER EXPRESSING USG WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND SUBSTANTIAL EX-IM CREDITS TO GREECE OVER THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, I AM
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HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SUCH A LETTER AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY STAFF WORK CAN BE COMPLETED. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT THE LETTER TO YOU IN EARLY AUGUST, AFTER DISCUSSING ITS CONTENTS WITH COMPETENT OFFICIALS IN YOUR MINISTRY."

2. COMMENT: I AM UNCERTAIN WHETHER THERE REALLY WAS CONFUSION

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ABOUT WHEN EX-IM LETTER COULD BE PRESENTED OR WHETHER THIS IS ONE OF THOSE ATTEMPTS TO WRING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OUT OF USG AS FORESEEN IN STATE 156861. IN ANY CASE, SINCE WE ARE PREPARED TO FURNISH AN EX-IM LETTER (STATE 162276) WHICH LEGALLY WILL BE ONLY A STATEMENT OF INTENTION RATHER THAN A BINDING COMMITMENT, I RECOMMEND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO HAND GOG AN INTERIM LETTER LIKE THAT ABOVE AT TIME OF INITIALING. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS ON WORDING.

3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN TEXT OF EX-IM LETTER DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO PROVIDE GOG, I UNDERSTAND IT MAY NOT BE FULLY SATISFACTORY TO GOG; THEREFORE, I RECOMMEND WE NOT TABLE IT IN FINAL FORM UNTIL AFTER DCA HAS BEEN INITIALED. I WOULD APPRECIATE SEEING PROPOSED TEXT, HOWEVER, TO BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND.
MILLS

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
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**Copy:** SINGLE
**Sent Date:** 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** GS
**Errors:** N/A
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**Litigation History:**
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**Reference:** 77 ATHENS 6920, 77 ATHENS 6951
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**Review Release Event:** n/a
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
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**Secure:** OPEN
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**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, GR, US, XMB
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50030e64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
**Review Markings:**
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